Title: Need to look into the problems being faced by Jute growers and the Jute Industry.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious issue. Jute industry is an age-old traditional industry of our country. This industry is passing through a grim scenario. It is being faced with multifarious problems not only in West Bengal but also in other States like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Some of the jute industries have been declared sick while others, including NGMC, are either on the verge of closure or have been closed. As a result of this, thousands and thousands of workers are out of job and are facing starvation. Some of the jute workers have even committed suicide.

Sir, jute industry is a backward industry and it needs modernisation and upgradation. As far as our information goes, our neighbouring country Bangladesh has upgraded and modernised its jute industry. Our back dated industry also needs immediate upgradation and modernisation. Not only the workers but also the jute industry as a whole and the jute growers are facing serious problem. They are not getting remunerative price for their produce. They are deprived of fertilisers and other inputs necessary for it and make distress sale. So, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government as also of the House towards it and would request the Government to come forward with a package to save the jute industry which is suffering seriously.

Sir, the jute industry is an important industry for the Government also as it earns a lot of money by way of export. So, I urge upon the House to take it seriously and bring forward a package for the modernisation and upgradation of the jute industry.